



# Newsletter

Spring/Summer 1999 - Issue 2

## Major Milestone in Flood Management Planning

**A** joint team of State and Federal agencies completed work in March 1999 on the first phase of a major planning effort that will help guide future flood management and related environmental restoration activities in the Central Valley of California.



The Study Team has recently completed several reports which document the initial 18 months of the study, during which time a multi-disciplinary Study Team gathered data on the flood management and inter-related ecosystem problems and opportunities of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems. The summary Interim Report provides the framework to develop comprehensive master plans for flood management, final Post-Flood Assessment and provides a summary of basin-wide hydraulic and hydrologic models development. ■

*"The Comprehensive Study effort is finally looking at our flood management and river systems as complete and inter-related systems – an effort that is unprecedented, yet necessary to protecting life, property and resources within the Central Valley."*

— Pete Rabbon,  
General Manager of The  
Reclamation Board

## In Memoriam



Rick Dreher

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of one of our team members. Frederick "Rick" Dreher of the Corps of Engineers lost his life in an automobile accident in Utah on the 20th of April 1999. His funeral was held in Madison, Wisconsin on April 29th and a memorial service was held in Sacramento on May 11, 1999. A 15-year veteran of the

Corps, Rick worked on many projects and was well known throughout the Corps. Rick started his career in the Los Angeles District and moved to Sacramento in 1994. For the last 18 months, Rick has worked on the Sacramento and San Joaquin

See "Memoriam" on page 3

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The Reclamation Board,  
State of California



U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Sacramento District



## Local Support Discussions Held in the Central Valley and Adjacent Areas

Twelve local support group discussions were conducted in the Central Valley between November and January of 1998. Held in Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Sacramento,



Knights Landing, Yuba City, Colusa, Willows, Red Bluff, Chico and San Francisco, the purpose of these small regional meetings was to inform affected stakeholders of the Comprehensive Study and to solicit their input on the problems in the basin, as well as planning objectives and potential measures. The meetings were informal and encouraged free dialogue and feedback. Future meetings are planned in early summer and at other significant milestones in the Study's development. ■

## General Findings of Local Support Discussions

- ▶ *Flood Protection is an important issue in the Central Valley.*
- ▶ *There is on-going support for a study that takes a system-wide approach to a solution.*
- ▶ *Meeting participants want to be involved and actively participate in the development of flood management and ecosystem restoration master plans.*
- ▶ *The implementation plan must identify broadly supported projects which fit with the comprehensive plan but which can be implemented early in the project schedule.*

## Summary of Issues

Stakeholders raised many issues and concerns at the local support discussions. The following is a partial list of issues that the Study Team heard: \*(not in order of priority)

### Flooding and Related Environmental Problems

- Erosion of Levees and River Banks
- Sedimentation of Floodways
- Re-operation of Dams
- Loss of Riverine Habitat
- Vegetation Management
- Exotic Species
- Loss of Natural River/Floodplain Function
- Unequal Levels of Flood Protection
- Levee Composition and Integrity
- Floodway Designations
- Urban Runoff
- Water Supply and Water Quality
- Mitigation of Hydraulic Impacts
- Debris and Sediment Blocking Floodways
- Levee Seepage/Erosion
- Flood Damages: Agricultural and Urban
- High River Flows Over Sustained Periods
- Repair of Private Levees
- Back-water Effects

### Costs

- Project and Cost Sharing
- Economic Impacts of Projects
- O&M Costs
- Energy Costs to Pump Local Drainage to the Rivers
- Impacts Government Purchase of Private Lands

### Property Rights

- Respect for Private Property Rights
- Impacts to Adjacent Properties
- 3rd Party Impacts
- Easement Acquisitions

### Agency Missions

- Need for Immediate Action
- Need for a Strategy with Priorities
- Adequacy and Clarity of FEMA Mapping
- Coordinated Disaster Response
- Need to Establish Realistic Goals
- Objectives May Not Be Treated Equally
- Identify Implementable Projects
- Agency Differences Over Priorities Which Lead to Project Delays



- Relationship to Other Programs
- Expand Boundaries of Study
- Project Management Accountability
- Maximize Opportunities
- Mathematical Model Maintenance
- Interagency Coordination
- Project Delays
- Need to Take a "Watershed Approach"

#### Institutional

- Permit Requirements
- Liability
- Maintain Navigation
- Off-site Mitigation
- Sub-surface Runoff

#### Public Involvement

- Need for Public and Stakeholder Involvement

## Identifying Problems and Opportunities

Since the inception of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, public views and involvement have been key components of the planning process. To assist in identifying the issues and constraints of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, the Study Team conducted focused discussions with knowledgeable local representatives and stakeholders between February and September of 1998. These discussions helped the Study Team focus its efforts on those areas of most concern and helped identify on-going and proposed projects and programs that will be evaluated in the remainder of the study. ■

## Memoriam *continued from page 1*

River Basins Comprehensive Study. He was a key contributor to this multi-disciplinary, multi-agency flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration team. Rick's efforts were instrumental in completing Phase I of the Comprehensive Study. His expertise will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues. Rick had a special interest in integrating flood management with ecosystem restoration. He was also an active skier, windsurfer and mountain biker. ■

## Where Do We Go From Here?

Without pause, the Comprehensive Study Team has completed Phase I and launched into Phase II, an anticipated three-year process. This Phase will see the continued development and calibration of basin-wide hydrologic, hydraulic and ecosystem functions models. Also, a broad array of flood management measures and alternatives will

Feb/Mar 1998	Nov 1998-Jan 1999	April 1999	2002	
Initial Focus Group Research on Planning Parameters	Regional Meetings on Planning Parameters	Interim Report	Release of Draft Master Plans for Flood Management and Related Ecosystem Restoration (PEIS/EIR)	Final Master Plans and PEIS/EIR (including an implementation plan)
Identification of "Spin-Off Projects" and Early Implementation Projects				

be evaluated to determine their flood damage reduction and associated environmental restoration effectiveness. They may include:

- Nonstructural approaches to floodplain management
- Improved operation of existing system reservoirs
- Channel improvements
- Setting back levees
- Integrating habitat with agriculture
- Creating new storage features
- Creating new flood bypasses
- Removing levees where other flood damage reduction measures make them unnecessary

Phase II will conclude with the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report and a technical document which will describe the master plans for flood damage reduction and integrated ecosystem restoration measures. Public involvement is essential to the development of these documents, so please watch your mail for notices of upcoming public meetings. ■

**For more information,**

**visit our website at**

**[www.spk.usace.army.](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/civ/ssj)**

**[mil/civ/ssj](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/civ/ssj) or**

**call the Study Team at**

**916.557.5140**

## We Don't Want to Miss You!

To be added to our mailing list or for address changes or corrections, please contact the Study Team at 916-557-5140 or visit our web site at [www.spk.usace.army.mil/civ/ssj](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/civ/ssj). ■



## Participating Agencies

Because of its comprehensive nature, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study must take full advantage of the expertise and capabilities of the various participating agencies. An Executive Committee,

which meets quarterly, is co-chaired by the Army Corps of Engineers and The Reclamation Board of the State of California. The Committee was established to assist in resolving emerging policy issues and to ensure consistent and full coordination. ■

## Executive Committee

### Partners

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

##### Federal

- *Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Forest Service*
- *Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Federal Emergency Management Agency*
- *Bureau of Land Management*
- *Geological Survey*
- *Natural Resources Conservation Service*
- *National Marine Fisheries Service*
- *Bureau of Reclamation*

#### The Reclamation Board of the State of California

##### State

- *Department of Fish and Game*
- *State Water Resources Control Board*
- *Department of Water Resources*
- *Department of Parks & Recreation*
- *Department of Boating & Waterways*
- *State Lands Commission*
- *Office of Emergency Services*
- *Department of Food & Agriculture*
- *CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Federal / State)*

Comprehensive Study . . . . .



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Sacramento  
and  
San Joaquin  
River Basins

### Comprehensive Study

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